

MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR
CHANCELLOR

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate to Dr. Jerry G. Bawcom, President at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, in Belton Texas, as Dr. Bawcom transitions into the office of the Chancellor. As the 21st President of UMHB, he has served as President for 18 years and will become Chancellor on June 1, 2009. I would like to thank Dr. Bawcom for his leadership and service as well as congratulate him and wish him well in his new position as Chancellor.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the U.S. House of Representatives Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 2996, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

The City of Gainesville Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project, Gainesville, TX—\$500,000—STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project—Congressman MICHAEL C. BURGESS

The purpose of this project is to expand the water supply and distribution system to convey treated water to the City of Valley View, Bolivar Water Supply and other water users in Cooke County, Texas. The requested funding will be utilized for raw water pump station improvements, a treatment unit and backwash pump station, high service pump station expansion, and other appurtenances as necessary for the water treatment plant upgrade. Federal funding is necessary to allow the city to meet its obligation to provide a stable drinking water supply for residents of Gainesville and surrounding communities and to reduce the region's reliance on limited groundwater sources. The total project cost is \$2,533,007. Matching funds will be provided through in-kind services and through city and state funds.

The City of Gainesville is located at 200 South Rusk, Gainesville, TX 76240.

THANKING LILLIAN BETHEA FOR
HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on December 31, 2008, we rise to thank Mrs. Lillian Bethea for twelve years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives and 36 years of service in the United States Government. Lillian has served this great institution as a valuable employee of

House Information Resources, in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Lillian began her tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1996 as a Systems Analyst working in the Member Information Network (MIN) Group and later for the Quality Assurance Team. Lillian specialized in the support and maintenance of in-House applications including but not limited to Federal Funds Reports, Grants and Contracts and Bulletin Board services. She became a Federal Funds Trainer based on her extensive knowledge and attention to detail on the project. Lillian has played an important role in many information technology projects including Quality Assurance and Integrated Services and Information Systems (ISIS) testing. During the Y2K remediation efforts, she played an instrumental role in quality assurance and data testing of systems resulting in the successful transfer of services from the mainframe to their new platforms.

Since 2004, Lillian has been a Team Leader for the Web Solutions Call Center. Her attention to detail and quality assurance experience were again highlighted as she managed the customer request tracking system, team assignments, and day to day customer requests for the Web Group. Her duties included managing customer requests for web services using the Customer Tracking System (CTS) and coordinating with external teams to process Secure ID Web Manager requests, establishing Listserv lists, and providing permissions and access to Web Site Statistic services. Again, her detail orientation and quality work ethic assured the security of the House Web infrastructure through oversight and management of the necessary processes involved. Lillian also played a vital role in the preparation of materials and coordination of efforts for the House Services Fair, ensuring the Web Solutions Branch was properly represented during the event.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Lillian for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Lillian many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2047) to authorize appropriation for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strength for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of National Defense Authorization Act of 2009.

The Department of Defense directed the Army to restructure its premier modernization program known as Future Combat Systems—FCS program—which includes a network of new sensors, radios, robotic vehicles and a fleet of new combat vehicles.

I personally commend the thousands of dedicated soldiers, department of defense civilians and their defense industry partners who worked on the project.

More than 1,000 of these dedicated men and women that do the engineering work for the FCS program live and work in my district. Some 10,000 employees in 74 Michigan companies worked to provide the Army a new ground combat vehicle fleet.

Many of them will be economically disadvantaged, despite their best efforts, by termination of the combat vehicle project.

Legislation passed by the Armed Services committee recognizes the restructuring of the FCS program and provides guidance on how the Army should proceed.

Providing for the national defense is in the preamble of the Constitution of the United States, it is this body's most solemn duty and responsibility. We must ensure that the men and women we send into harm's way have the very best training and equipment we can provide.

It's imperative that we move rapidly to provide the Army a new ground combat vehicle that protects American soldiers against IEDs, road side bombs and anti-tank munitions. We must not lose the momentum gained during six years of research and development and the multibillion dollar taxpayer investment on this project.

Any new program must consider both Army and Marine Corps needs for manned ground combat vehicles now and in the future. It must build on what we have learned from three separate FCS ground vehicle designs as well as lessons learned from combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have the best trained and dedicated Armed Forces in the world. Will we ask them to go to combat with vehicles that are nearly two generations old, designed for a different enemy and more conventional warfare?

Instead, let's build on the work that has already been done; ensure that billions of taxpayer dollars already spent are not wasted by starting from scratch, and provide U.S. Soldiers and Marines vehicles and systems that provide increased situational awareness for the conflicts of the future.

I urge the members to make a new combat vehicle the centerpiece of Army's research and development efforts in a restructured program.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY JOP

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate The Honorable Judy Schier Hoobs, Justice of the Peace for Williamson County, Precinct 4, who was awarded "Judge of the Year" by the Central Texas Justices of the Peace and Constables Association (CTJPCA) on April 15, 2009. When the group held their first meeting in 1986, Judge Hobbs was elected as the first vice president and was later elected as president in 1987. A lifetime member of the CTJPCA, Judge Hobbs was chaplain in 2008 and chair of the Legislative Committee. I am truly proud to have Judge Hobbs serve in Texas District 31.